



Core School Solutions

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September 18, 2013
House of Representatives
State of Michigan
124 North Capitol Avenue
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Michigan House of Representatives,

My name is Molly Funk and I am here to support House Bill 4352 and 4353 because they could literally save a child's life by protecting children from dangerous food allergy reactions at school.

As a former Principal, working for 7 years in Wayne-Westland and 2 more in West Bloomfield schools, I know that teachers, principals and administrators are willing to do anything to keep our kids safe.

These bills would give us the tools we need to safely help children in emergency situations. Food allergies are on the rise and have become a serious issue for schools across the nation. More than 15 million Americans—including 6 million children—suffer from food allergies.

Children are among the most vulnerable to allergic reactions and anaphylaxis, a severe reaction that can be fatal within minutes through swelling that shuts off airways or through a drop in blood pressure. Last year a seven-year-old girl in Virginia died after suffering an anaphylactic reaction at school brought on by a food allergy. Studies show that as many as 25% of children are unaware they suffer from a food allergy until they suffer a life-threatening anaphylactic reaction—away from home and often at school!

In 2011, over 127,000 Michigan children were uninsured. These bills would both protect children who have their initial reactions at schools, but those who cannot afford to have an epinephrine device at school.

When it comes to our children and serious allergic reactions, minutes matter and simple treatments can save lives.

School administrators and staff members are responsible for the safety and well-being of all of our children- from identifying injuries that need immediate care, protecting and practicing safety procedures from intruders and disasters and including administering life saving medications such as insulin, diastat, and more commonly epinephrine.

Thank you for taking action today to allow school administrators the tools to save lives and prevent Michigan from joining states like Virginia that have seen children die at school from severe allergic reactions.

Sincerely yours,

Molly Funk, Ed.S.